Affordable Source of Energy

338. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S. are moving closer on the crucial issue of civilian Nuclear Energy by giving India access to Nuclear Energy Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up five working groups to expedite the matter;

(d) whether first meeting of this Nuclear Energy Group will be held in the run up to Prime Minister's U.S. visit in July, 05; and

(e) how far U.S. and India ensure clean, reliable, affordable sources of energy to keep the economies of both countries expanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing energy demands in cleaner and more efficient manner, Prime Minister during his recent US visit, discussed with President Bush, India's plans to develop its civilian nuclear energy programme. The US side, while appreciating India's strong commitment to preventing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation stated that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such States. President Bush promised to seek agreement from Congress to US laws and policies and to work with friends and allies, to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactor at Tarapur. US side also promised to encourage its partners to consider India's request for its inclusion in International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and Generation IV International Forum. India, on its part, agreed that reciprocally it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology such as the US.

(c) Growing concerns about energy security prompted India and the US to announce the agreement on 14th April 2005 on a new Energy

dialogue with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as the Co-Chairperson on the Indian side and Energy Secretary as the Co-Chairperson from the US side. The first meeting of the Energy Dialogue took place on 31st May, 2005 in Washington DC. The meeting resulted in an understanding to establish a Steering Committee to supervise the five Working Groups under the dialogue, which would be on: Civil Nuclear Energy, Oil and Gas, Power and Energy Efficiency, Coal and New Technologies and Renewable Energy.

(d) The first meeting of the Civil Nuclear Working group is yet to take place.

(e) The India-US Energy Dialogue would focus on promoting increased trade and investment in the energy sector by working with the public and private sectors to further identify areas of cooperation and collaboration. Building upon the broad range of existing cooperation, it is hoped that this effort will help mobilize secure, clean, reliable and affordable sources of energy.

Atomic Energy Projects under construction

339. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the generating installed capacity of Atomic energy in our country;

(b) how much atomic energy is being generated at present against that capacity; and

(c) whether there are any other such project under construction or planning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The installed nuclear power capacity in the country is 2770 MWe.

(b) During the year 2004-05, 17010 Million Units of electricity were generated.

(c) Nine nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 4460 MWe are under construction at present. Out of the nine nuclear power reactors